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CIA Accused of Imprisoning 17 Cubans for 11 Weeks

The Central Intelligence Agency has been charged with imprisoning an anti-Castro Cuban leader and 16 companions for 11 weeks both before and after the Cuban "invasion" fiasco.

The New York Times, in a story from Miami, identified the Cuban as Rodolfo Nodal Taraga, 27, a lawyer who was

active in the National Revolutionary Front during the Batista regime.

Nodal said he and the other 16 Cubans were held incommunicado in a remote camp in the jungle of Peten in northern Guatemala until April 28—11 days after the Cuban landings began.

They were flown back to

Miami and released on the following day, he reported.

He attributed the imprisonment to their opposition to Capt. Manuel Artime and other leaders backed by the CIA for the abortive Cuban landings.

The 17 were kept in "subhuman" prison conditions, Nodal declared, accused of being Communists, and subjected to lie detector tests at gunpoint.

The Times said the fact of their imprisonment was well known among Cuban circles in Miami, but full details had not been disclosed previously.

Nodal went to Miami from Cuba last October to work for the democratic revolutionary front and later was sent to Guatemala for training. These are other details of his story.

After he and others in the camp objected to the Cuban leaders in charge, they were put under guard and shuffled from one camp to another. They were questioned constantly.

Some of the prisoners were taken away and others added as they went along. On March 30, Jose Miro Cardona, later named president of the Cuban Revolutionary Council, visited them and promised to have them set free.

When he left, he took with him the first letters they had been able to send their families since their arrest. He also told them he had nothing to do with their arrest.

Finally, a month later, they were flown to Miami in relays and released.

Nodal and his fellow prisoners have organized a new Cuban organization to be known as the 17th of April movement in memory of the Cuban landings.

They have called on Cuban groups to work together for the overthrow of Castro but without the participation of the CIA.

MORI/CDF